

Environmental Assessment

Reduce Common Raven Predation on the Desert Tortoise in the California Desert

Status of the Project

Raven EA Project

- Status of the EA
- Coordination with Migratory Birds Office
- EA Implementation Planning Status
- Education and Outreach

Status of the EA

- ▶ Lead for FWS is Robert McMorran
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- ▶ Temporary lead for FWS is
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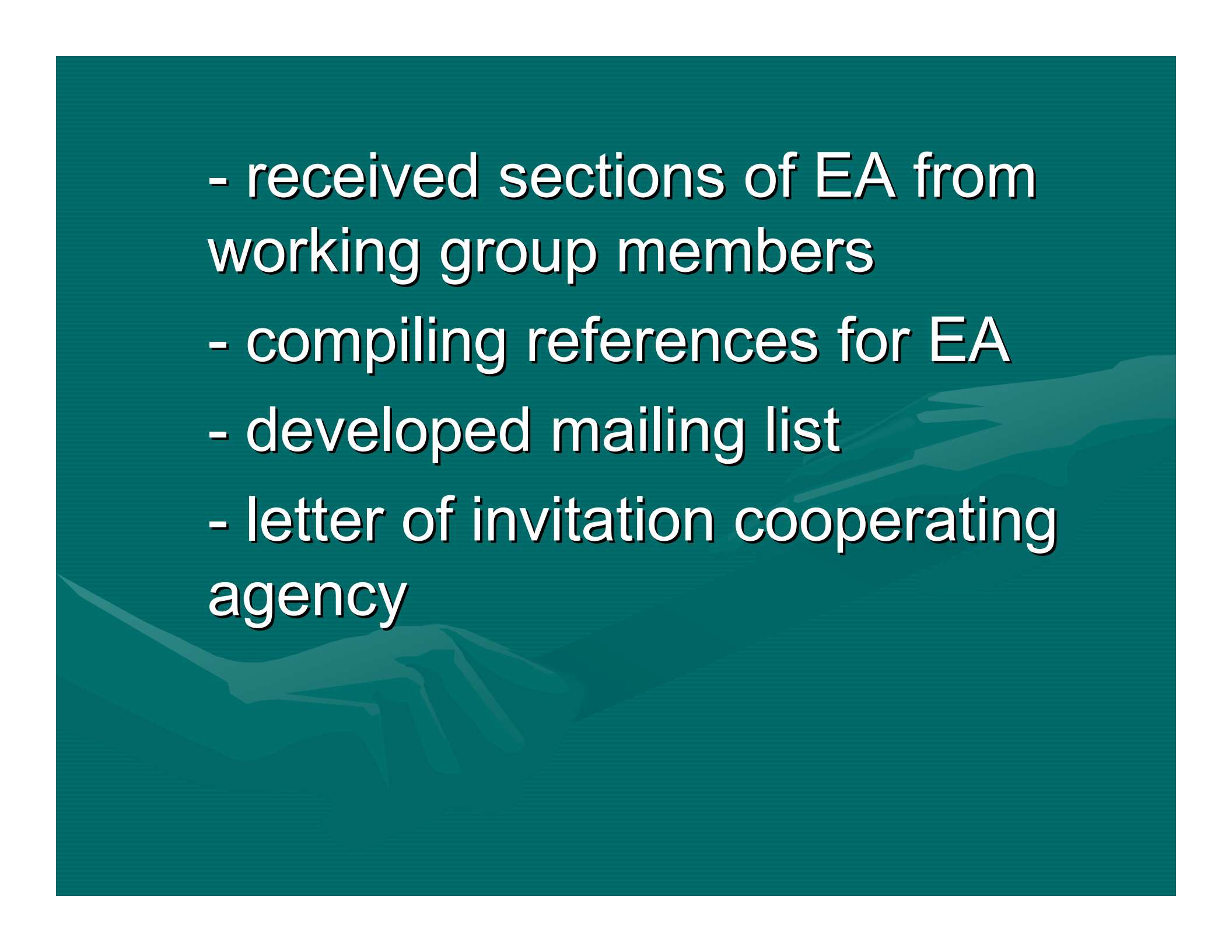
Working Group meeting in February

- Developed a schedule
 - early April - provide draft EA to working group
 - early May - receive comments from group
 - early June - incorporate comments
 - early July - send draft EA to FWS RO (MBO and NEPA) for review

- Modified the schedule
 - early May – provide draft to working group and FWS (OMB and NEPA)
 - late May – receive comments from groups
 - early June – incorporate comments and send to Office of Solicitor for review
 - ASAP - incorporate comments and distribute Draft EA to public

- Assessed remaining work to finish draft EA
 - reviewed scoping letters
 - public identified additional concerns (implement non-lethal methods first; ensure lethal methods target appropriate individuals)

- researched past efforts for raven management and legal challenges that halted efforts
- coordinated with federal agencies in similar situations
- result = added information to the draft EA

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- received sections of EA from working group members
 - compiling references for EA
 - developed mailing list
 - letter of invitation cooperating agency

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FWS Migratory Bird Office Coordination

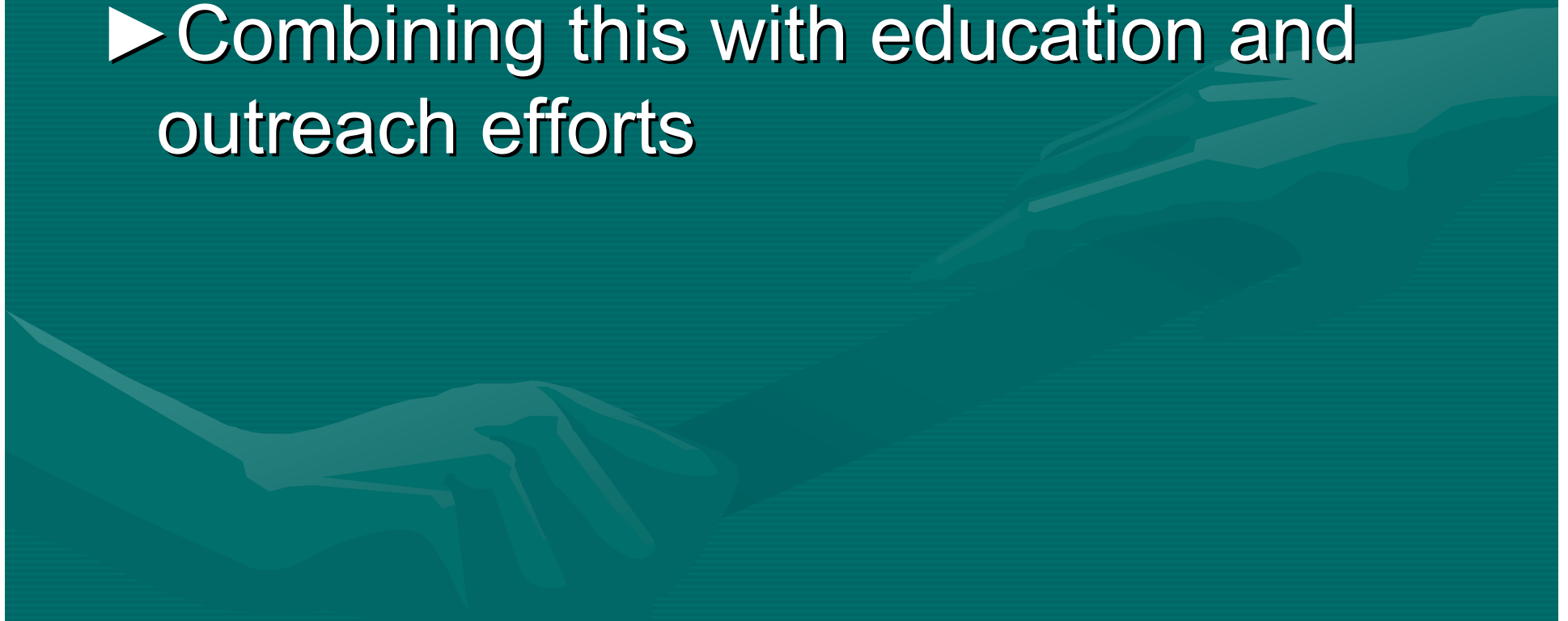
- ▶ submit draft EA to MB Office and NEPA coordinator
- ▶ MB Office does not anticipate major concerns issuing a take permit
 - small number of ravens on a regional scale
 - permit issuance time 30 days to 6 weeks

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EA Implementation Planning Status

- ▶ No accomplishments to report
- ▶ Combining this with education and outreach efforts



Education and Outreach

- ▶ Major electrical utility companies in California desert - meeting
 - identify locations of facilities
 - identify raven issues
 - discuss possible solutions
 - develop next steps